unreasonable attitude I do not wish to get into the hornet's nest, but the fact remains that 16 to 20 vacancies could not be filled up because these three vacancies had not been filled up. Similarly, in Bengal, I find a problem. The problem is, the Governor has different views, the Chief Minister has different views, and the Chief Justice has different views. So, I received three sets of proposals and never a unanimous proposal. We do not know how to sort out some of these problems. What is worse is, in this procedure, at one stage, we have to call for an LB. report on every person who has to be promoted to the High Court Bench. These I.B. reports, I hope, in one of these days, I will persuade somebody to get rid of them. They take, at least, 30 to 45days. I do not know how to follow the entire procedure which the Supreme Court itself has laid down. We are doing our best to see that these procedures are simplified and the delay is avoided. So far as the vacancies in High Courts are concerned, I will take much less time to fill them, and I hope that, within next three months, no vacancies will be left anywhere.

MR CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Science City in Punjab

*601. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state the status of setting up of a Science City in Punjab, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): The Punjab Government formed a society named Pushpa Gujral Science City Society (PGSCS) on November 11, 1998. This Society entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Calcutta, an autonomous organisation under the administrative control of the Department of Culture, on February 13, 1999, for setting up the project on a turnkey basis. The schedule attached to the MoU envisages completion within 36 months. So far, the Department of Culture released an amount of Rs. 7.00 crores. According to the information received from NCSM,

orders for purchase of a Large Format Film Projection Unit and Motion Simulator have already been placed after inviting and short-listing the global tenders floated for the purpose. The architect for this Project has also been finalized. The work for the construction of the boundary wall is in progress. The construction of site office and a dormitory is nearing completion. The geo-technical work for the site is in progress. Contractors for construction of the Science City have already been short-listed through open tender. Based on the request received from the Chief Minister, Punjab, vide his letter dated 18.4.2000, the Chairman, Governing Body, NCSM had already approved the deputation of a senior officer of NCSM, chosen by the Punjab Government, to exclusively look after the project.

Modification in Law Relating to Rajya Sabha Elections

*604 SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have lately had under consideration any modification in the law and rules relating to elections to the Rajya Sabha mainly regarding resident restrictions, secrecy of ballot which results in cross voting, flouting the anti-defection law and providing for reservation of seats for women and for SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) In recently held biennial elections to Rajya Sabha, some issues like cross voting and use of money power have been in limelight. Some corrective steps, like introduction of open ballot system at these elections, have also been suggested. These and other issues raised in the Question are being examined.

The Constitution does not provide for reservation of seats for SCs/STs in Rajya Sabha. So far as the issue of reservation of seats for women in Rajya Sabha is concerned, though the Joint Committee on the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996, in its report in December, 1996, had recommended that the Government should work out the modalities for this purpose and bring out